



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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Strong public access role for the National Film and Sound Archive

The National Film and Sound Archive's access role has been further strengthened through the transfer of key public access programs from the Australian Film Commission, the Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett said today.

These programs include:

- www.australianscreen.com.au which is a web-based resource of film and television material sourced from a range of archives;
- the Big Screen travelling film festival which presents new and classic Australian films to audiences across regional and rural Australia;
- Black Screen which focuses on access to Indigenous films; and,
- School Screen which offers schools around Australia free access to Australian features as part of their curriculum.

The National Library of Australia's National Film and Video Lending Service will also be transferred to the National Film and Sound Archive.

"In addition to building on the National Film and Sound Archive's strong international reputation as an audiovisual collecting institution, these programs will improve its ability to promote and deliver public access programs associated with the collection," the Minister said.

Mr Garrett said that some key public access programs will be transferred from the Australian Film Commission to the National Film and Sound Archive along with \$1.7 million per annum in indexed funding to underpin the new public outreach function, fulfilling a long standing election promise.

The National Film and Sound Archive's creation as a statutory authority from 1 July 2008 was announced in the 2008-09 Federal Budget.

In addition to the transfer of its core funding from the Australian Film Commission, a further \$500,000 per annum will be provided to the National Film and Sound Archive from Film Australia to ensure additional costs in administering the new entity, for instance Board and Chief Executive Officer costs, do not impact on its programs.

The Minister said that Screen Australia will not be disadvantaged as it will have a single board and one CEO which will be resourced from AFC and Film Finance Corporation funding currently allocated for these functions.